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TALK BY K.G.B. MAN SEEN AS POLITICAL

U.S. Says Yurchenko Wasn't Trying to Disrupt Geneva

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 — Reagan Administration officials asserted today that Vitaly S. Yurchenko's Moscow news conference was aimed primarily at domestic audiences and was not an effort to disrupt the coming summit meeting.

As Administration officials played down the significance of Mr. Yurchenko's remarks, the C.I.A. issued a statement calling his statements "absolutely ridiculous."

Several officials said they were perplexed by the Russians' decision to hold a second long news conference in Moscow today, at which Mr. Yurchenko ridiculed the C.I.A. and repeated charges that he had been kidnapped and drugged.

Officials said that Mr. Yurchenko's comments may have been part of a Soviet attempt to counter the complaints about human rights that President Reagan is expected to raise when he meets with Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, in Geneva next week.

The United States has said Mr. Yurchenko defected three months ago, cooperated with American authorities, and then decided to return to his homeland. Earlier this month, at a news conference at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, Mr. Yurchenko, who was identified as a senior official in the K.G.B., said he was kidnapped and drugged by American agents. Those statements have been repeated by the Soviet press.

Americans' Opinions Divided

Some American officials believe Mr. Yurchenko is a defector who changed his mind, while others believe he was sent by the Russians to spread false information and sow discord in the ranks of American intelligence. The prevailing view in the C.I.A. is that he changed his mind after suffering reverses in his personal life.

After Mr. Yurchenko's news conference, the C.I.A. said: "Yurchenko's statements are absolutely ridiculous. We have more important things to do than respond to obvious Soviet propaganda and we hope that the United States media won't be drawn into to such transparent efforts by the Soviets."

Secretary of State George P. Shultz, in an interview with foreign journalists, said he saw no suggestion of a harder Soviet line on the summit meeting in the tone of the Yurchenko news conference.

"I don't think anybody takes seriously his statements that he was drugged and kidnapped," Mr. Shultz said. "So this is just more of the same. He put the same theater on here in the United States."

One Administration official said the news conference may have been organized by the K.G.B. in an effort to repair the damage done to its reputation when Mr. Yurchenko defected.

Donald Jameson, a former C.I.A. officer who dealt with Soviet defectors, said the K.G.B. would probably use the Yurchenko case to discourage other defectors.

"I think they are deeply disturbed about the tendency of their intelligence officers and other Government officials to defect," Mr. Jameson said. "They are trying to present as horrifying a picture of the United States as is possible."

"If they could keep their people from defecting," Mr. Jameson said, "they would be way ahead of us in protecting their secrets."

According to the C.I.A., Mr. Yurchenko held several positions in the K.G.B. in which he would have been responsible for preventing Soviet officials from disclosing information to the West.